

State Workforce Investment Board
Full Board Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2013

The public meeting of the State Workforce Investment board (SWIB) convened at the Jackson Convention Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Board members in attendance:

Ron Aldridge	Kristi Henderson	Joe Morton
Jeffrey Allman	Mark Henry	Bob Mullins
Jackie Beasley	Charles Holder	David Stephens
Rickey Berry	Clarke Holmes	Lex Taylor
George "Bunky" butler	Joe Jones	Mike Thomas
Lee Carson	H.S. "Butch" McMillan	Sherrye Thompson
Eric Clarke	Jay Moon	John Turner

There were approximately 25 guests in attendance.

Call to Order

- Chairman Jay Moon called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Each board member introduced themselves to the group. Mr. Moon thanked the members for their willingness to serve.

Approval of Minutes

- The Chairman called for a motion to approve the minutes of the SWIB full board meeting of December 8, 2012. Bob Mullins made the motion to approve the minutes. Lex Taylor seconded the motion. There were no opposing votes and the minutes were approved.

Governor Phil Bryant

- Governor Bryant gave an overview of the Governor's Mississippi Works program as it relates to the SWIB. He stated that he is a timeless advocate for workforce development. The SWIB members were encouraged to review and implement Mississippi 2020 Vision "Working Together". This strategic plan outlines the path for success while enhancing education and workforce development. The Governor reminded the members that when he took office, he appointed Jim Barksdale to chair a workforce development group which was charged with developing strategies for furthering workforce development in Mississippi. He stressed that education and workforce development go hand in hand. There needs to be constant improvement, and the environment for growth is huge in our state. Governor Bryant added that he expects perfection in the efforts of meeting challenges for workforce training needs.

Recognition of Larry Otis

- Chairman Jay Moon thanked former SWIB Chairman Larry Otis for his dedication to workforce development and the people of Mississippi. He presented Mr. Otis with a plaque and a gift in recognition of his tenure and service. Mr. Otis thanked everyone for their work on the SWIB, reminded the members that the purpose of the SWIB is to benefit the people of Mississippi, and expressed his wishes for future success.

Conflict of Interest Statement

- Chairman Moon directed members' attention to the Conflict of Interest Policy Acknowledgement form for SWIB members in each packet. An Advisory Opinion was sought from the Mississippi Ethics Commission regarding whether a business may enter into a contract with a governmental contractor where the chief executive officer, owner, or employee of the business serves on a state board that funds the contract.
- The Department of Employment Security, Office of Grant Management, drafted a Conflict of Interest Policy under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).
- He instructed SWIB members to return the signed document to Yolonda Boone or Jay Moon.

Authority to Hire Contract for SWIB Support

- SWIB members discussed that numerous states have one or more staff dedicated to exploring SWIB endeavors and are actively in charge of the workforce board. Members were in agreement that a position devoted to SWIB activities should be pursued.

Workforce Development in the United States and Mississippi

- Jay Moon reported that workforce development is the number one issue for Mississippi. He presented an overview of globalization around the world and key trends in economic development. The business reality is that Mississippi must compete for more mobility of talent and the best use of public policy is to push workforce development which will increase collaboration between entities. A highly skilled and educated workforce drives innovation and is imperative for achievement.

Overview of the State Workforce Investment Board

- Chairman Moon told the board that the SWIB was established in 2004 as an advisory board for the Governor, and its role is to maximize cooperation between state and public agencies in an effort to improve the quality of the workforce. He described some of the duties and responsibilities of the board which include planning and providing direction as various agencies define their roles which will ensure consistent training, result-oriented performance, and customer choice. The SWIB website is www.swib.ms.gov.
- Discussion followed regarding hiring challenges facing businesses, issues revolving around the dropout rate, and how career awareness and opportunities for education need to be stressed. SWIB members agreed that cities and counties should be part of the focus to become a "certified workforce community".

Workforce Development Programs and Funding

- Mark Henry, Executive Director of Mississippi Department of Employment Security, provided an overview of the agency whose mission is "Helping Mississippians Get Jobs". Several programs administered by the agency were mentioned, including the WET Fund, OJT/ITAs, Work Opportunity Tax Credits, and the Pledge to Hire Vets.
- Dr. Eric Clark, Mississippi Department of Community and Junior Colleges, reported that the Office of Workforce Education is responsible for facilitating the use of the state's resources to provide skills to workers and improve the quality of life for all citizens. He provided an overview of workforce training history beginning with the passage of the Workforce Consolidation Bill of 1999. Dr. Shawn Mackey and Dr. Mimmo Parisi also offered input regarding the comprehensive matrix of accountability the Department of Community and Junior Colleges is continually performing.

- Wanda Land from the Mississippi Development Authority, representing Executive Director Brent Christensen, informed the SWIB that MDA ensures that communication between businesses and workforce partners continues to grow in order to encourage businesses to locate in Mississippi. The MDA continually works to strengthen business relationships for the good of the state.
- Mike Mulvihill, Mississippi Department of Education, reviewed the Carl Perkins Federal Grant, State Career and Technical Funds, and several other areas of responsibility under the MDE. He addressed the Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment procedures and provided further overview of the MDE.
- Richard Berry, Mississippi Department of Human Services, provided a synopsis of responsibilities under the purview of MDHS. Mr. Berry informed SWIB members of DHS duties, varying from weatherizing houses to housing juveniles. The agency's mission is to provide socially responsible programs which promote traditional family values. DHS has partnered with MDES to offer services. Mr. Berry explained several of the programs supported by the Department of Human Services.

Life Tracks (State Longitudinal Data System)

- Dr. Mimmo Parisi advised that the SLDS has been in development stages for ten years. He explained how data is collected from numerous entities and is used to determine where resources can best be utilized. Governor Bryant added that he sees Life Tracks as an extremely valuable tool. Dr. Laurie Smith with nSPARC at Mississippi State explained the legislation which facilitated the establishment of the SLDS and the capabilities of the Life Tracks system.

Chairman Moon thanked the SWIB and advised that subcommittees are being established and will be sent to determine members' interest in serving. He plans to have the subcommittees meet to promote legislation and workforce development, but not in a full board meeting arena.

The Chair advised the Governor's Workforce Conference will be October 31, 2013, at the Jackson Convention Center. **Please note the date has been changed to October 29, 2013, at the Jackson Convention Center.** The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.